

## THE WEEKLY REVIEW

PUBLISHED APRIL 11, 2003

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## Wilson Awarded Community Health Super Hero Award

Mon. March 31, Washington, D.C. – The following was released by the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association:

"On Tuesday, March 25, the National Association of Community Health Centers and Health Centers from the State of South Carolina presented the 2003 Community Health Super Hero Award to the Honorable Joe Wilson for his strong and consistent congressional support of health centers and the patients they serve both in communities across the country and throughout the state of South Carolina."

"The Community Health Centers program was created nearly 40 years ago to help fight the war against poverty and disease. Today, health centers serve as the family doctor for more than 13 million low-income children and adults in 3,500 communities across the country – including over 225,000 South Carolinians – keeping children healthy and in school, helping adults remain productive and on the job, and saving taxpayer money by providing high-quality preventive and primary healtl care, thus reducing unnecessary use of emergency rooms and hospitals. South Carolina is currently served by 19 health centers, operating 116 sites across the state."

"Health Centers deliver affordable health care services to anyone regardless of their income or insurance status. The success of Community Health Centers has won the attention and support of President Bush, who has made it a goal to expand the program and serve twice as many people over the next five years.

## Wilson and Graham call for Protection of Religious Sites in Israel and Around the World

**Tues.** April 1, Washington, D.C. – Rep. Joe Wilson(SC) and Sen. Lindsey Graham (SC) introduced a Congressional Resolution to protect religious sites in Israel and to open up all holy sites for access to visitors from all faiths.

"Historically religious sites should always be protected and maintained so that people of all faiths and nationalities would be allowed to visit and worship in peace," said Rep. Wilson. "Yet, as we have seen in recent years in Israel, many places of worship have come under attack, and people have been denied admittance to these most sacred places. We cannot sit by quietly when violence is directed against holy sites, as many Americans visit these sites every year along with people form all over the world."

The non-binding sense of Congress, historically religious sites should remain accessible to people of all faiths and be protected from desecration, with particular emphasis on Israel, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the West Bank and Gaza.

"I am very pleased with Senator Lindsey Graham's leadership, in realizing the importance of making a statement to the world that America longs for peace and freedom in the Middle East and around the world. No one should fear attacks at a religious site, and all faiths should be welcomed," said Rep. Wilson. "The House resolution already has over a dozen original cosponsors, which reflects how important this issue is to Congress."

# Congressman OC Wilson THE WEEKLY REVIEW

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## Iraqi Citizens Finally Freed from Saddam's Oppression

Thurs. April 10, Washington, D.C. – Rep. Joe Wilson (SC) made the following remarks on the House Floor:

"Yesterday, three weeks to the day after Operation Iraqi Freedom began, the larger than life statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Paradise Square was torn down amid celebration by the Iraqi citizens. An event very similar to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, promoted by President Ronald Regan, this symbolic gesture signals the downfall of this totalitarian regime. The Iraqi people are certainly entitled to celebrate – 30 years of brutal oppression are finally coming to an end, thanks to the leadership and determination of our President George W. Bush," said Rep. Wilson.

"I applaud the coalition force for their courage and a dedication beyond compare. The loss of American lives, though tragic, has been reduced and our mission efficient and effective, as I was encouraged in February when I visited the troops in Kuwait."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have suffered losses and our soldiers who continue to fight for the freedom of Iraq and the end of terrorism, which spreads weapons of mass destruction against American citizens. It is our hope that the Iraqi people will be able to use the unique riches of their country to build a new life for themselves, based upon the principles of freedom and liberty. May God bless our troops, and may God bless the newly freed people of Iraq," said Rep. Wilson.

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## Honoring the Life of Sgt. George E. Buggs

Fri. April 11, Washington, D.C. – Rep. Joe Wilson (SC) made the following remarks on the House Floor honoring the life of Sgt. George E. Buggs:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sgt. George E. Buggs. The young man grew up in the South Carolina town of Barnwell. After graduating form his local high school in 1990, he decided to become part of something larger than himself, by joining the U.S. Army to defend our nation."

"On Saturday, the Pentagon announced that Sgt. Buggs made the ultimate sacrifice for his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His body was discovered during the rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch, among 8 other fallen Americans."

"We do not yet know if Sgt. Buggs was killed in an ambush or later suffered torture. Yet, we do know that Sgt. Buggs did not die in vain; he gave his life so that we could remain safe from Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction and so that the citizens of Iraq could be freed from oppression."

"Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Sgt. Buggs, especially his 12 year-old son, and we ask for God to bless our troops still fighting to protect our freedoms," said Rep. Wilson.

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